

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting
November 7, 2012 MINUTES
Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe De Vito Chair, Chris Fortunato, Matt Green, Stephan Ross, Terence Sack, Robert Staulo,
Staff: Ruth Hoshino, Jennifer O'Leary
Guests: Deb D'Arcy, Tasia Cerezo
Student Interns Tom Pomeroy, Teekhon Davidoff, Zahary Eagle, Jay Sobel, Adoran Moshe, Charlie Goldberg, Daniel
Elsen-Rooney, Sophie Veskler, Ethan Morgan

The meeting was opened at 7:10 PM and chaired by Joe De Vito with a "thank-you " for attending – especially on a snowy night!

A vote to accept the minutes of September 5 and October 3, and 2012 was passed.

Treasurer's Report: The opening balance is \$2500. Expenditures to date: e-CHUG \$487.50, Intern meeting refreshment cost = \$197.93

Business:

- **New Youth Services Director.** Jennifer O'Leary, the new Health and Human Services Youth Services Director was introduced. Jenny has past experience working in adolescent youth advocacy. She is excited to be here and was pleased to have attended the Youth Summit on 10/11/12.
- **Youth Summit Review** – Joe expressed appreciation to the student interns for leading the way.

Positive Side/What Worked Well

- Student personal narrative speeches
- Breakout session group dynamics
- Discussion Topics
- Location
- Having the Mayor be part of the evening

Needs Improvement/Looking ahead to Summit II

- YRBS data was mostly not used (although the data was in-line with the topics being discussed)
- Wrap-up too rushed – some reports were succinct, some went too long – with different groups discussing the same topic, perhaps a combined report can be presented to the large group – perhaps each group gives one key element to work on (rather than three)
- Too much information to digest in a small amount of time – focus could be narrowed
- The breakout discussion groups were valuable – the wrap-up diluted the information
- More marketing, better recruitment of teens and parents
- More clarity of name and description of discussion topics
- Increased collaboration between teens and mayor
- More student diversity in video presentations

Poignant Summit Observations/What's the One Thing That Stood Out?

- Parents have a strong appetite to hear from teens
- Teen Voice students are well spoken and eloquent – how do we hear from those less likely to speak up?
- Social media creates new and different stress on youth
- Newton clearly values the perspective of youth

- Stories that seem unique, may resonate with many others
- Impressive number of adults coming to hear from kids
- Good to hear the honest things that adults (any former teacher/principals) have to say
- Anti-bullying curriculum has been roundly criticized by students – it's good to hear the perspective of the teachers

Going forward, teens want to be involved in planning Youth Summit II on 3/20/13.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. **The next meeting is Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at 7 PM.** For inclement weather, use personal judgment safe travel. Check City of Newton website for city hall closure. If weather is stormy, check for email message before coming to meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Hoshino